



BISHOP AUCKLAND
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

T. A. McCULLAGH,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1923

M. Braithwaite & Son, Printers, Bishop Auckland.

Bishop Auckland Urban District Council.

R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T. A. McCULLAGH.
FOR THE YEAR 1923.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

The Deaths which occurred in the Urban District in 1923, excluding those not belonging to the District which took place in Public Institutions, and including those of residents who died outside the District, was 179 (102 males and 77 females); 36 fewer than in the previous year. The Births numbered 353, 197 males, 156 females, and 22 of these were illegitimate. Twenty-three Infants under 1 year died, two of whom were illegitimate.

The Population is estimated at the Central Register Office to be 14,470, and taking this number as correct the respective rates are :—

Death Rate	12·03 per 1,000
Birth Rate	24 per 1,000
Infant Mortality Rate	65 per 1,000 Births.

The Death Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate are a considerable improvement on the preceding year. The Birth Rate is the same.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES

Enteric Fever	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	3

8 = Death Rate 0.5

INFLUENZA.—There were 3 deaths.

No deaths occurred from Small Pox, Scarlet Fever or Encephalitis Lethargica.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	...	22
Diphtheria	...	7
Enteric Fever	...	3
Erysipelas	...	3

When there were cases of Small Pox in the County it was considered advisable to make Chicken Pox notifiable for the time being, and 11 cases were notified between the end of October and the 31st of December.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Seventeen cases were removed to the Hospital.

Diphtheria	...	1
Erysipelas	...	1
Enteric	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	12

The Nursing has been very efficient, and

TUBERCULOSIS.

A large amount of good work has been done at the Cockton Hill Dispensary. There were 17 deaths during the year from various forms of this disease. The Death Rate is 1·01 per 1,000.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year a complete Battery of Bell's Mechanical Filters was installed with lime chambers and alumina tanks at a cost of £7,500. The water now passes through these mechanical filters into sand filter beds, and is then treated with Chlorine. The result is most satisfactory, as the analysis, both chemical and bacteriological, show that we have a perfectly pure drinking water.

One of the three Sand Filter Beds has been completely cleansed throughout, and is now in full working order.

ASHPITS, PRIVIES BINS ETC.

The work of emptying Ashpits, Privies, and Bins is now let in four separate contracts. I think that on the whole the work has been done satisfactorily, as complaints have not been frequent. Most of those made to me have been about the dirty state of the Tip at the end of Hexham Street, and measures are now being taken to remedy the nuisance.

Three Privy Ashpits have been converted into Ash-closets, 9 Privy-Ashpits and 2 Ash-closets into Water-closets. There are still 501 of the objectionable privy-ashpits. The number of Water-closets is 2079, and of Ash-closets 740.

SCHOOLS.

All the Schools are in good sanitary condition.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Clinic for Children is largely attended, and the Maternity Home is very successful.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

I am almost daily in consultation with Mr. Sanderson, the Inspector of Nuisances, about our work, and I have received great help from the County Council Health Visitors who regularly send me reports of insanitary conditions found by them.

MILK SUPPLY, COW SHEDS, ETC.

The greater part of the Milk supplied in the Town comes from the Rural District, and is of good quality. One small cowshed is in a very insanitary state, and will shortly be closed. Another requires considerable repairs and action is being taken in the matter.

OTHER FOODS.

Two hundred and fourteen pounds of Beef, and 13 cases of Apples were seized as being unfit for food.

BAKE HOUSES

All were found clean and in good sanitary state on inspection.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 14 registered Slaughter Houses in the town. All of these have been inspected regularly and were found clean. There is no Public Abattoir.

LODGING HOUSES.

The Lodging Houses, four in number, are in a fair repair. They are all old, rather tumble-down buildings. There have been no complaints during the year except about the one in Great Gates. The management has now been changed, and the Inspector has no complaints to make.

PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

All have been inspected and found quite satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Four new houses have been built and occupied during the year. The need for many new ones is great. Those that have been already scheduled as insanitary are in many cases quite unfit for human habitation. Overcrowding is prevalent. It has occurred during the year to the Inspector's personal knowledge at 5 houses in South Terrace, 1 in Flintoff Street, 1 in Little Tenters Street, 2 in Tenters Street, 1 in Wiseman's Yard, 1 in Town Head, 1 in Gregory's Yard, 1 in the Oaklands Hotel, 2 in Wear Chare and The Batts, and 1 each in Blue Row and Chapel Yard. Two families lived under tarpaulins on the Batts for some months, being unable to find any other accommodation.

Three Tables are appended.

I—Causes of Death.

II—Summary of Work done.

III—Statistics.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. A. McCULLAGH, M.O.H.

April, 1924.

TABLE I.

Causes of Death in Bishop Auckland Urban District,
1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Males	Females
All Causes (civilians only)	..		102	77
1 Enteric Fever	..	..	1	..
2 Small-pox	..	..	..	..
3 Measles	..	..	1	1
4 Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..
5 Whooping Cough	..	..	1	..
6 Diphtheria	..	..	..	1
7 Influenza	..	..	3	..
8 Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	..	..
9 Meningococcal meningitis	..	..	..	..
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	6	4
11 Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	4	3
12 Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	7	8
13 Rheumatic fever	..	..	..	..
14 Diabetes	..	..	..	..
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage &c.	..	..	5	2
16 Heart disease	..	..	6	9
17 Arterio-sclerosis	..	..	3	..
18 Bronchitis	..	..	9	8
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	14	9
20 Other respiratory diseases	..	..	1	..
21 Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum.	..	..	1	..
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	3
23 Appendicitis and typhitis	..	..	..	1
24 Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	1	..
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	..	..	2	2
26 Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition.	..	..	..	..
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth.	..	..	7	4
29 Suicide	..	..	3	..
30 Other deaths from violence	..	..	2	3
31 Other defined diseases	..	..	22	19
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	3	..
Special Causes (included above)—				
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..
Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, total	..	..	14	9
Illegitimate	..	..	2	..
Total Births	..	..	197	156
Legitimate	..	..	183	148
Illegitimate	..	..	14	8

Population 14,470

TABLE II.

Summary of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's
Department during the Year, 1923.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT

1—Public Health Acts.		Number of In- formal written Notices by In- spector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Auth- ority	Number of Nuis- ances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling- houses and	{ Foul Conditions ...	31	23	30	
Schools	{ Structural Defects ...	4	8	5	
Lodging-houses	...				
Dairies and Milkshops	...				
Cowsheds	...	1	1		
Bakehouses	...				
Slaughter-houses	...	1		1	
Ashpits and Privies	...		33	2	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...				
Waterclosets	...	8	1	6	
Defective Yard Paving	...	10	1	3	
	{ Defective Traps ...	6		2	
House	{ No Disconnection from				
Drainage	{ Sewers ...	1		1	
	{ Other Faults ...	8	4	12	
Water Supply	...				
Pigsties	...				
Animals Improperly kept	...	4		3	
Offensive Trades	...		1	1	
Smoke Nuisances	...	1	1	2	
Other Nuisances	...	6	1	4	
Totals	...	81	74	72	

II—Water, Food, and Drugs.		Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...		
" " condemned as unfit for use	...		
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	214 lbs 13 cases	of Beef of Apples
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...		
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...		
" " found Adulterated	...		

Summary—Continued.

III—Precautions against Infectious Disease.	Number	Remarks.
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed .	2	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	42	
Schools do. do. ...		
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...		
Convictions for do. ... do. ... do. ...		
IV—General.		
Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	4	
Number of such Houses occupied during the year ...	4	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ..	3	
do. do. Water-closets ...	9	
Ash-closets do. do. ...	2	
Total number of Water-closets in District ...	2079	
do. Ash-closets do. ...	740	
do. Ash-pit privies do. ...	501	

TABLE III.
STATISTICS.

Area	...	..	691 acres
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	14 480
Rateable Value	...	...	£61.957
Assessable Value	...	...	£56.838
Death Rate ...	...	...	12.03
Births	...	...	353
Deaths	...	...	179
Birth Rate ...	...	...	24
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	0.5
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	65
Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	1.01
Infectious Cases Notified	...	...	35
Removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...	17